

we have created. Now I suggest that we seriously consider looking at the complete restructuring of our university system and our college system. At the present time we have developed a system in which the state colleges, functioning as their independent unit of government, want to all be universities. The tech schools set up for the idea of creating a cadre of plumbers and painters and electricians and carpenters throughout the state have pretty well become convinced that they want to be state colleges or miniuniversities. Lincoln UN-O and UN-L, instead of functioning in a coordinating fashion are functioning almost strictly in a fashion in which each of them wants to be "the state university". A state of one and one half million people can simply not support a system of everybody trying to be a super university. So I think ultimately you have to accept the fact that you're going to have to have one super board and appointed by the Governor and that has to control and coordinate the entire upper educational system. At one point in time it was my understanding that Governor Kerrey favored this. Tragically, nobody pushed it.

SENATOR BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR DECAMP: Tragically, it's not going to get done. My fear about this proposal is it's nothing more than a hybrid. You don't deal with the big picture, you simply deal with a very small part of one small unit of this mishmash of government and that is the university system and then you only deal with it halfway. You can't have accountability without responsibility and the authority and we have none of that for our Governor and as I say, the Legislature by virtue of our nonpartisanship and the way it functions, it basically goes nowhere. So if this state is going to function in the twenty-first century, you're going to have to one of these days face up to the fact that you've got to revamp all these things and make one point of accountability and responsibility and I would hope that some would seriously consider in future years changing the Constitution to have "one board over all of these appointed by the Governor" and making the system function. Not every school can be a super university and we can't afford the system the way it is going now and the way it's expanding. So for that reason I'll probably maybe vote to advance the bill today only for the purpose of maybe amending it later.

SENATOR BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Nelson, please.